

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05 AID-05 INRE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN/CR:MMBOVA:HLB

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN - DAVID LAZAR

ARA/PAN - H. STEIN (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE NIACIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: CHARGE AGAINST CASTILLO

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT HEARD OF THE CHARGE AGAINST VICE
PRESIDENT CASTILLO PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL NOR HAS IT
HEARD ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ANY OTHER COSTA RICANS. AS FAR
AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE HONDURAN COMMISSION RAISED NO
REPEAT NO QUESTION IN THIS REGARD WHILE HERE.

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2. WITH REGARD TO CASTILLO'S 10,000 DOLLARS INVESTMENT IN

MC DONALD'S RESTAURANTS IN HONDURAS, DEPARTMENT INFORMED THAT MINECON BENNATON OF HONDURAS ALSO HAS INVESTMENT IN THIS CHAIN. IT MAY BE THAT THIS "CONNECTION; BETWEEN BENNATON, WHO IS WIDELY RUMORED TO BE THE RECIPIENT OF THE UB BRIBE, AND CASTILLO IS WHAT IS GIVING RISE TO THESE RUMORS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN LEARNING THE ORIGIN OF THIS ACCUSATION. (FOR PANAMA AND TEGUCIGALPA): REPORTS OF ANY PRESS ACCOUNTS ACCUSING CASTILLO OF COMPLICITY IN THE BANANA SCANDAL WOULD BE APPRECIATED. (FOR SAN JOSE AND PANAMA) COULD THIS ALLEGATION HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH UNEXPECTED VISIT OF PRESIDENT TORRIJOS REPORTED LAST WEEK? AS MATTER OF SHEER

SPECULATION, WE WONDER WHETHER PANAMANIANS HAVE STARTED THIS RUMOR TO DRUM UP CA SUPPORT IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH UB BY MAKING IT APPEAR THAT UB IS ON VILIFICATION CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT REGION. KISSINGER

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05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: ETRD, EINV, PGOV, CS, HO, (CASTILLO MORALES, CARLOS MANUEL)
To: SAN JOSE TEGUCIGALPA
Type: TE
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